

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

Kent A. Leonhardt, Commissioner
Joseph L. Hatton, Deputy Commissioner



Pesticide Enforcement Policy Statement For Products Generally Available Exemption

With the passage of HB 4644, effective June 8, 2022, annual pesticide business licenses and certification are no longer required for persons applying lawn care and pest control products that are generally available through retail sale at groceries, drug stores and other stores. As we applaud the Legislature's effort to continue to reduce red tape and overburdensome regulations, we still believe there is value in hiring licensed pesticide application businesses employing certified pesticide applicators. This ensures those businesses are properly insured and their applicators have received initial training and continuing education as outlined in **§61-12A** Certified Pesticide Applicator Rules. In addition, the WVDA will continue to uphold the federally mandated certification and licensing program, as well as provide oversight over lawn care and pest control services.

Licensing requirements and continuing education ensure that an individual has proper knowledge of pesticide application. The misapplication of pesticides has the potential to harm humans, animals and the environment. The safe and effective use of pesticides is of utmost importance to the WVDA. For that reason, we will continue to encourage our current licensed companies and individuals to maintain licensing. The WVDA offers initial certification training at no charge, as well as continuing education training assistance. Moving forward, we recommend the public contact licensed businesses for services.

We will continue to work with our lawn care and pest control industries to foster economic development, as well as safe and effective use of pesticides. If you have suggestions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

For a list of current licensed businesses and applicators visit <https://wvplants.wvda.us>.

If you have any questions regarding pesticide applicators, please reach out to Grant Bishop at (304) 558-2209 Ext. 4200 or gbishop@wvda.us or visit <https://agriculture.wv.gov/divisions/regulatory-and-environmental-affairs/pesticides/>.

Make sure to check out the WVDA's Field Watch: <https://agriculture.wv.gov/fieldwatch/>. This tool allows producers, apiarist and pesticide applicators to increase awareness and communication as part of ongoing conservation efforts.

